and constant efforts are being made to achieve the targets for the remaining items in accordance with the Official Language Policy of the Government which is based on persuasion and incentives.

Fake Railway Passes

955. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a racket is running systematically in Maharashtra and issuing fake railway passes for the last so many years;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, only three cases of use of fake railway passes had come to notice of railways in past many years and as outsiders were involved the cases were referred to the Police. In one case, investigation has been completed and charge sheet filed in the Court of Law. Investigations are in progress in the other two cases by the Police.

Regular preventive checks are conducted to detect such cases.

[English]

E.D. Employees

956 SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of E D Employees in the Post-Offices in Delhi Circle;

(b) whether recruitment of such employees is made through employment exchange;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of E D employees appointed without their names being forwarded by the Employment Exchange;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some Assistant Suprintendents have committed irregularities in such appointments;

(f) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of ED Employees in Delhi Circle is 549.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, incase the Employment Exchange fails to sponsor the requisite minimum number of candidates within the date stipulated in the notification, applications are invited through open advertisement.

(d) The number of ED Agents appointed without sponsorship by the Employment Exchange in Delhi Circle is 3. Two were appointed from the local market as per rules and one was appointed before the condition of sponsorship from the Employment Exchange was introduced.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h). The question does not arise.

Environmental Damages Caused by Eco-Tourism

957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing Eco-Tourism in the country is causing environmental damages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have proposals to monitor the over-growing eco-tourism being promoted by the various State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Although there has been a few instances of environmental degradation in the past, the concept of eco-tourism is aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability of tourist centres by following eco-friendly practices and creating awareness.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has constituted the Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which has evolved guidelines for developing eco-tourism.

Railway Freight Charges evaded by Gang Operating in Delhi

958. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating in and around Delhi and evading freight apart from sales tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such evaders have been detected by the railway and sales tax authorities recently;

(d) if so, the amounts recovered from them and number of persons arrested so far involved in this modus operandi; and